

Systems Canada saves valuable time when creating long, heavily formatted documents.

Overview

Name: Hy London

Company: SYSTEMS CANADA

Location: Montreal, QC, Canada

Industry: Research and development

Product: Corel[®] WordPerfect[®] Office Suite



The Story

Hy London formed SYSTEMS CANADA in 1974. This firm of independent consultants works in a number of fields, including disaster recovery planning, strategic planning using knowledge-based environments and Internet security and planning. One of the company's specialties is advising a diversity of clients—ranging from fast food chains to information technology firms to multinationals—on how much of their research and development (R&D) spending qualifies for R&D tax credits. After evaluating a client's research efforts and selecting those projects that qualify, SYSTEMS CANADA prepares a summary report that is submitted to the government and a detail report that is used when the government conducts the related scientific audit.

The Challenge

The documents that SYSTEMS CANADA prepares are large, usually ranging in length from 10 to 100 pages, and can be as long as 500 pages. Hy London uses WordPerfect[®] because he must produce professional-looking documents. "In our business, we don't offer our clients a physical product." The report is all the client walks away with, so the finished report has to look professional to the nth degree."

The presentation of the document isn't the only consideration; the amount of time producing it is also crucial. Since SYSTEMS CANADA has highly skilled and expensive staff who are extremely careful about how they manage their time when analyzing client R&D spending and producing the reports, Mr. London wants the time spent on analysis and writing, not verifying the formatting of long documents. Nor can valuable time be spent restarting an application and recovering lost work. Stability is always critical.

SYSTEMS CANADA needed a reliable solution that would allow it to quickly and confidently produce correctly formatted long, complex documents. When there is a formatting error, it must be remedied quickly.

The Solution

The intensive formatting in SYSTEMS CANADA's documents demands a word processor that offers users hands-on control while providing pertinent document information to quickly make intelligent choices in critical situations. WordPerfect is the answer.

As a document is created in WordPerfect, codes are inserted to indicate where the formatting options begin and end, and what properties are applied. With the Reveal Codes feature, users can open a pane below the document window that displays the text and associated codes, giving an "under the hood" look at the document. Here users can easily modify the properties of the codes.

Hy London finds this extremely useful. Sometimes formatting will go awry mid-way through a long document, and SYSTEMS CANADA needs to quickly pinpoint the problem. "People make mistakes. You open Reveal Codes, and it tells you exactly what you've done. 'There's my mistake, let's change it.'"

Mr. London likes how simple Reveal Codes is compared to similar features in competing word processors. He tried others and found the format-coding wasn't nearly as user-friendly as Reveal Codes. "I defy Einstein, if he were alive, to figure out their format-coding feature."

WordPerfect gives SYSTEMS CANADA the peace of mind to focus on analyzing a client's R&D efforts by offering an intuitive means of rechecking documents quickly. "What you see on screen is what you'll get when the file is printed."

The stability and reliability of WordPerfect is important when SYSTEMS CANADA is starting a new report. The basis for each new document is created by assembling a series of existing sub-templates by using the Merge and Sub-document features. Sometimes up to 65 sub-documents serve as the foundation.

These features allow the company to reuse existing templates when creating the basis for new documents. But there's little room for error. "We need to know that things are going to be 100% correct. We cannot afford to have one bad subdocument blow everything apart."

SYSTEMS CANADA also often use the Variables feature, allowing it to easily customize existing templates for their clients. Variables act as data placeholders in templates, which are updated with client information. Hy London says the degree to which WordPerfect allows SYSTEMS CANADA to tailor each piece to its recipient is critical. The nature of the work dictates that every element within each document must be client-specific. "Everything has to be totally customized."

WordPerfect saves SYSTEMS CANADA time, and also allows users to truly tailor each new document to the client.

Hy London also likes the intelligence of the writing tools in WordPerfect. Drawing on his scientific background, he uses the example of forgetting the letter 'h' in the word 'the.' The spelling checker won't flag 'te' because it's recognized as being the symbol for tellurium in the Periodic Table of Elements. There's no need to worry that the spelling error will remain in the final document because Grammatik will catch it as a grammatical mistake. WordPerfect is the ideal solution to SYSTEMS CANADA's document-creation needs. The length and nature of the documents require a word processor that gives total control to the user. "We push WordPerfect technology to the hilt and get very good results," says Hy London.

The Benefits

WordPerfect saves SYSTEMS CANADA time—time spent assembling documents, writing and, finally, verifying intensive formatting. SYSTEMS CANADA has reaped the benefits of the flexible formatting control of WordPerfect. Hy London estimates the time spent reviewing document formatting has been reduced by 20%, and notes "that's significant."

WordPerfect allows SYSTEMS CANADA to work smarter and confidently with negligible interruptions. According to Hy London, the formatting options, the application stability, the ability to reuse existing documents and writing tools make for a reliable product that yields reliable results. "With WordPerfect, we know we'll get properly formatted documents, regardless of their length or complexity."

For more information please visit www.corel.com/wordperfect